REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 19-25 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 19 are amended herein. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 and 19-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Dedrick (US Patent No. 5,768,521). Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,:

> selecting a sequence of components for processing the data, each
> component having an input format and an output format such that the
> output format of a component is compatible with the input format of the
> next component in the sequence....and recording an amount of data
> processed by each component.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference does not teach, disclose or suggest the elements of the claimed invention.

In contrast to the elements recited in independent claim 1, Dedrick discloses "a metering mechanism which can meter the flow of electronic information to a client computer within a network." (See, Dedrick, Abstract). Dedrick's system involves "a metering mechanism [that] determines whether the end user can consume the information." (See, Dedrick, Abstract). Further, the determination in Dedrick is based on whether the end user is a registered subscriber and whether the end user has a viable account with adequate funds for a requested transaction. (See, Dedrick, Col. 3, lines 52-59). Based on this determination, "If the end user can access the

information, the meter will transfer the information to the end user and charge the price of the

information to an electronic account of the end user stored in a database of the metering server."

(See, Dedrick, Abstract). Dedrick's metering system charges an end user a transaction fee and

transmits requested data transparently to an end user, while recording and transmitting

characteristics related to the requested data to a data clearinghouse, such user profile

information. (See, Dedrick, Col. 7, lines 50-51)

However, Dedrick does not disclose, teach or suggest selecting a sequence of

components for processing the transferred data, such that the output of a component is

compatible with the input format of the next component in the sequence, as recited in

independent claim 1. By way of example only, the specification details the process of selecting a

series of protocols (e.g., P1, P2, and P3) for converting data in one format into several different

formats. (See, Specification ¶ [0028] and Figs. 1 and 2). Furthermore, Dedrick does not disclose,

teach or suggest recording an amount of data processed by each component, as recited in

independent claim 1 and discussed, for example, in ¶ [0037] of the Specification. Therefore,

Applicant submits that the claimed selected sequence of component for processing transferred

data and recording the data processed by the components is not anticipated by Dedrick's

metering server that verifies an end user's account information, transparently sends requested

data to the end user, and logging the user profile information.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended independent claim 1 is patentably

distinct from the cited reference for at least this reason. Further, Applicant submit that amended

independent claim 19, as well as claims 2-12 and 20-25, which are directly or indirectly

dependent from amended independent claims 1 and 19, respectively, are also patentably distinct

from the cited reference for at least a similar reason. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests

withdrawal of this ground of rejections.

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CONCLUSION

It is now believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. In view

of these remarks, an early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary for the submission of this

Amendment and Response, however, should any fees be due, the Commissioner is hereby

authorized to charge any such fees which may be required for this Amendment and Response, or

credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 3802-4055US1.   A

DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: November 3, 2004

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